

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-82

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJ: APRIL 9 DRC REVIEW OF NATO FORCE PROPOSALS/GOALS-BELGIUM AND ITALY

REF: A. DRC/WP(74)1(REVISED), BELGIUM AND ITALY

B. USNATO 1583 C. USNATO 1533

SUMMARY: DRC ON APRIL 9 REVIEWED REVISED DRAFT COUNTRY CHAPTERS ON ITALIAN AND BELGIAN 1975-1980 DRAFT FORCE GOALS. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF DRAFT GOALS. DRC MADE MINOR REVISIONS TO A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS, INCLUDING A FEW US PRIORITY PROPOSALS; HOWEVER, THRUST OF US PROPOSALS NOT ALTERED. END SUMMARY.

1. DRC ON APRIL 9 DISCUSSED REVISED COUNTRY CHAPTERS ON 1975-1980 DRAFT FORCE GOALS FOR ITALY AND BELGIUM (DRC/WP(74)1 (REV), (POUCHED TO WASHINGTON).

2. DISCUSSION OF ITALIAN REVISED CHAPTER CENTERED ON PARA 29, SECRET

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DEALING WITH ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF ITALIAN GOALS. DRC, AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION, AGREED ON A NEW PARA 29:

BEGIN TEXT.

29. THE RESULTS OF THE MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION HAVE REDUCED THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF THE FORCE PROPOSALS BY SOME IT. L. 4,000 THOUSAND MILLION; IN CONSEQUENCE ROUGH ESTIMATES OF THE DRAFT FORCE GOALS NOW INDICATE AN ORDER OF SOME IT. L. 3,200 THOUSAND MILLION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE IN ADDITION TO WHAT IS IMPLICIT IN THE CURRENT ITALIAN FORCE PLANS. THIS AMOUNT REPRESENTS 22 PCT OF THE AGGREGATE VALUE OF PROJECTED DEFENSE SPENDING OVER THE PERIOD. VIEWED AGAINST THE ESIMATES OF GNP GROWTH SET OUT ABOVE, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DRAFT FORCE GOALS WOULD IMPLY A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN THE DEFENSE SHARE OF GNP, CORRESPONDING TO THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE ON THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES. THE COMMITTEE ALSO NOTED THAT DURING THE MULTI-LATERAL EXAMINATION THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES SAID THAT THEIR VIEWS ON THE ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF THE FORCE PROPOSALS WERE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR DEFENSE THROUGH THE BETTER UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES, SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY PROVISION FOR THE NAVY, AS WELL AS A REAL INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE DEFENSE BUDGET IN LINE WITH THE GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY. THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES THUS HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE FUNDS WHICH WOULD COVER THE COST OF THE DRAFT FORCE GOALS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE COMMITTEE CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE DRAFT FORCE GOALS OFFERED A CONSIDERABLE BUT REALISTIC CHALLENGE TO ITALY. END TEXT.

3. DRC AGREED TO ITALIAN INSPIRED CHANGES TO PROPOSALS 1L13 AND 1M02A THAT PUSH BACK DATE BY WHICH SECOND LANCE UNIT AND SECOND TWO SAURO CLASS SUBS ARE TO BE INTRODUCED. DRC RESISTED ITALIAN EFFORT TO DELAY DATE BY WHICH NEW MPA ARE TO BE PROCURED (1M08). ITALIAN REP STRESSED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES DO NOT PLAN TO PROCURE ADDITIONAL MODERN MPA WITHIN THE PLANNING PERIOD. A NEW PARA, POINTING OUT THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSAL 1A12 TO PROVIDE SAM-LO AT TWO FBS/A AIR BASES IS STILL UNDER STUDY BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES, WILL BE ADDED TO SECTION DESCRIBING RESULTS OF DRC EXAMINATION. DRC FURTHER AGREED TO SEVERAL EDITORIAL CHANGES TO ITALIAN CHAPTER.

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4. DISCUSSION OF BELGIAN REVISED CHAPTER ALSO CENTERED ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DRAFT FORCE GOALS AND RESULTED IN A NEW PARA 27:

BEGIN TEXT.

27 THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION BY THE DRC HAVE REDUCED THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF THE FORCE PROPOSALS BY SOME B.FR. 16,000 MILLION; IN CONSEQUENCE ROUGH ESTIMATES OF THE DRAFT FORCE GOALS NOW INDICATE THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE FUNDS PROVIDED FOR IN KNOWN COUNTRY PLANS, SOME B.FR. 26,000, OR 8 PCT MORE, ARE REQUIRED. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED FORCE GOALS WOULD IMPLY AN INCREASE IN THE DEFENSE SHARE OF THE GNP FROM 3.1 PCT IN 1973 TO

AT MOST 3.6 PCT BY 1980, BASED ON THE MORE PESSIMISTIC ASSUMPTION OF THE GNP GROWTH RATE. THIS WOULD STILL BE LOWER THAN THE PRESENT NATO EUROPE AVERAGE OF 4.2 PCT. HOWEVER, ON THE MORE OPTIMISTIC ASSUMPTION OF A HIGHER GNP GROWTH RATE, THE INCREASE IN THE DEFENSE SHARE OF GNP WOULD MEAN A NOMINAL RISE TO 3.2 PCT BY THE END OF THE PERIOD. THE REDUCED DRAFT FORCE GOALS ARE CONSIDERED BY THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE TO BE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT IS ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE AND TO PRESENT A REASONABLE CHALLENGE TO BELGIUM WHICH IS IN LINE WITH THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. END TEXT.

BELGIAN REP IN ONLY OTHER SIGNIFICANT COMMENT REITERATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES ARE NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE HAWK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, THUS MOST LIKELY THE HAWK BATTERIES WILL NOT BE CONVERTED TO AN IMPROVED SYSTEM BEFORE THE 1980'S (SERIAL 1L23, A US PRIORITY PROPOSAL).

5. DRC IS ADDING TO EACH COUNTRY CHAPTER A SHORT PARA DEALING WITH THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF REDUCTION BY DRC OF FORCE PROPOSAL PACKAGES FORWARDED BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES. IN THE CASE OF ITALY, PARA WILL NOTE DRC LOWERED REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN FORCE CAPABILITIES BUT THAT DRC ATTEMPTED TO MAINTAIN A BALANCED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WHICH RETAINS THE SALIENT FEATURES OF THE FORCE PROPOSALS. FOR BELGIUM, PARA WILL ALSO NOTE SLIGHT REDUCTION IN CERTAIN COMBAT CAPABILITIES BUT THAT OVERALL MAIN THRUST OF FORCE PROPOSALS IS BEING MAINTAINED. RUMSFELD

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